

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"We really do not care enough about the poor"



"I often wonder, even though the teaching of Sacred Scripture is so clear about the poor, why many people continue to think that they can safely disregard the poor."
(Dilexi Te, 23)

Pope Leo XIV's question echoes Sophie's heartfelt plea.

With Sophie

The education of the most underprivileged was at the heart of Sophie's work. When she arrived in Rome, she quickly set about founding a second establishment for the poor. To those religious whom she sent there, she said, "How fortunate you are to have been chosen to bring the Gospel to the poor! There can be no place poorer than the Trastevere, and there are no children more despised than the children of this population, of this 'vile populace', as some people dare to call them. Far be it from us to think that way." (*Journal of Trinita dei Monti, 5 May 1833*)

She showed great concern for those in distress; she called them by their name, and took practical care of some of them. She suggested that we gave not only bread, but also tobacco to a man who had requested it. She arranged a life-long income for a woman who was deeply troubled and who was living in extreme poverty. When a religious sister tried to stop her from giving away her new shirts, she replied, "What are you saying; they are too good for the poor! I would gladly give them my skin..." So many gestures, both known and unknown, reveal that she was a true friend to the poor, developing lasting, warm relationships with delicate sensitivity. (*See especially, A. Cahier, Vie de la Vénérable Mère Barat, vol. 2, pp. 478–490.*)

*"He shall judge the poor with justice; with righteousness,
he shall decide in favour of the humble of the land."*

(Is. 11:4)

Today in the Church

"Every human being is a child of God! He or she bears the image of Christ! We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved. They are an occasion that Providence gives us to help build a more just society, a more perfect democracy, a more united country, a more fraternal world and a more open and evangelical Christian community." The Church, like a mother, accompanies those who are walking. Where the world sees threats, she sees children; where walls are built, she builds bridges. She knows that her proclamation of the Gospel is credible only when it is translated into gestures of closeness and welcome. And she knows that in every rejected migrant, it is Christ himself who knocks at the door of the community. (Dilexi Te 75)



Contemplate and Share

In our personal prayer, let ourselves be inspired by people who have shown us the face of Jesus the poor man:

- *Speak their names*
- *Remember what we said to each other*
- *Reflect on the journey we travelled together*

Share with others what this prayerful reflection has meant for us and what it is calling us to do today.

Hymn: [Shepherd me ô God](#) - Marty Haugen

ADVENT WITH MADELEINE
SOPHIE AND JPIC



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